

Dear Chair Sen. Gelsler and Members of the Committee:

I am writing to express strong support for SB682 where Oregon has a coordinator working on the 5-year Adult Suicide Intervention Prevention Plan. Incorporating the real time insights of Oregon's individuals, families, cultures and communities with direct and indirect lived experience of suicide attempts, loss, and/or suicidality into the planning takes a coordinated effort to synthesize along with identification of best practices, promising practices, trauma informed and culturally appropriate care practices for recommendations for prioritization, investment, policymaking and more. An understanding of Oregon's systems, resources and landscape increases responsiveness. And in particular, the gap this addresses is for suicidality / suicide by adults coping with mental / behavioral health challenges, some of whom suffer and struggle on a daily basis with intrusive thoughts, urges, behaviors, ideation / contemplation, complicated by trauma responses and symptoms of conditions thus needing to go beyond the broader universal public health approach. As our crisis response system is being updated to include 988 services, we need to move the system forward in a positive direction to reduce unnecessary criminal justice / courts / law enforcement involvement, especially death by cop. Please be sure Oregon has an Adult Suicide Prevention Coordinator for this life-saving work.

Sincerely,
Laura Rose Misaras
Consumer and Family Advocate